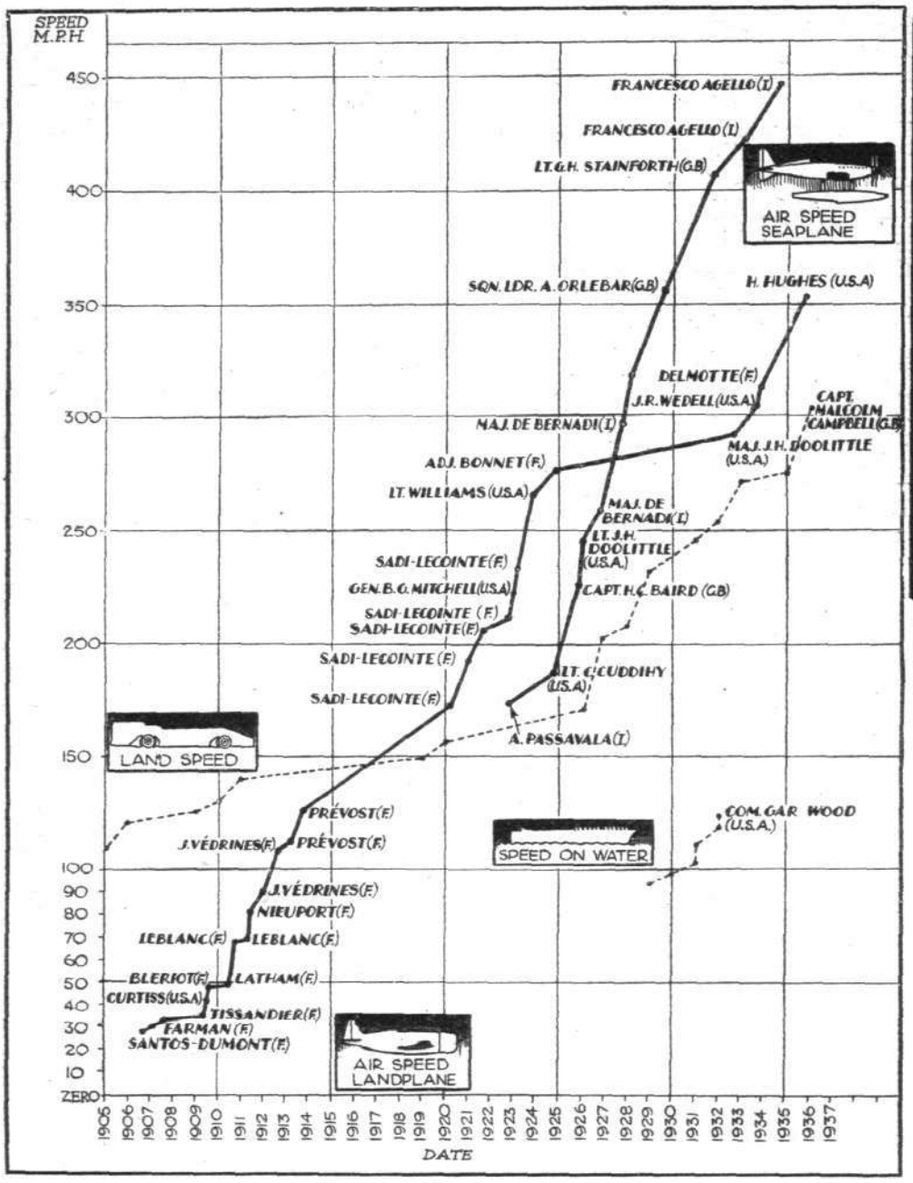
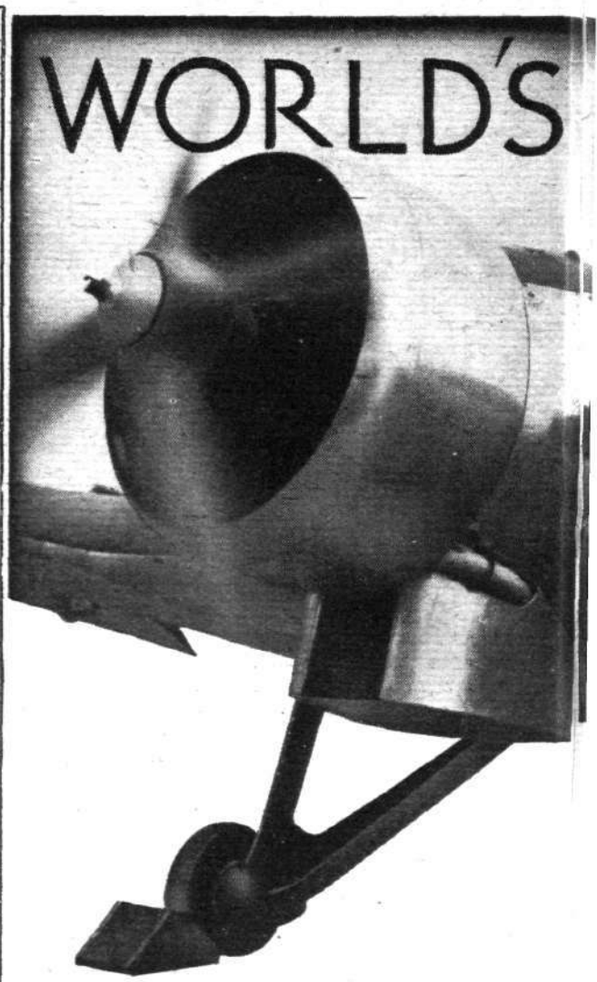


How the maximum air speed has progressed year by year. Land and water speed records form an interesting comparison. (*Flight* copyright.)



International Speed, Distance and Altitude Figures Reviewed : Trans-oceanic and Capital-to-Capital Achievements

WORLD'S air records fall naturally under two headings (a) the ultimate records for speed, distance or altitude—these are generally confined to the "specialists"—and (b) the long-distance "speed" flights, which may or may not be official records, but are recognised as the best time for the journey. The latter are the pursuit of the few more adventurous and independent spirits in flying.

Before considering the subject as a whole, it is desirable to eliminate the efforts which can serve no useful purpose. People have been known to sit for forty days on top of flag-poles, or roll peanuts up mountain-sides with their noses. Fortunately, aviation has almost entirely escaped this type of "stunt" and notoriety.

Great interest is always shown in a person or machine that can do something better or faster than any other in the world; and, usually, advertisement is the underlying incentive for a record attempt. Perhaps a manufacturer desires to advertise to the world at large the

The D.H. Comet with two Gipsy Six R engines is perhaps the most successful long-distance racing type of recent years. (*Flight* photograph.)